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## **This Week on NewTalk: Experts Explore Potential Scope and Benefits of Universal National Service**

### *Leading Authorities in the Nation Convene to Outline Plan for National Service*

NEW YORK, NY – October 12, 2008 – As America looks to rebuild its economy, many commentators cite national service programs as a way to engage our youth, address pressing community needs, and increase prosperity. From October 14-16, a panel of the country's leading experts will come together at NewTalk.org for a three-day discussion to determine how America can rise above its challenges through national service initiatives.

The panel will include leading thinkers and practitioners in the field: heads of some of the best known service institutions; as well as authors, professors and policy experts. Focusing on the development of a future national service initiative, the participants will aim to determine what it might look like and how it might operate.

Discussion participants include:

- Jonathan Reckford – CEO, Habitat for Humanity;
- Steve Goldsmith – Former Mayor of Indianapolis and Chair, Corporation for National and Community Service;
- Alan Khazei – Founder, City Year;
- John Bridgeland – CEO, Civic Enterprises;
- Rosabeth M. Kanter – Professor, Harvard Business School, a leading authority on social enterprises;
- Nick Taylor – Author, *American-Made: The Enduring Legacy of the WPA: When FDR Put the Nation to Work*;
- Tracy-Elizabeth Clay – Vice President for Public Affairs, Teach for America;
- Will Marshall – President and Founder, Progressive Policy Institute;
- David Walker – President and CEO, Pete Peterson Foundation;
- Susan Stroud – Executive Director, Innovations in Civic Participation;
- Cami Anderson – Former Executive Director of Teach For America in New York City, Superintendent of New York City School District 79.

(Participant photos and biographies are available at [www.newtalk.org](http://www.newtalk.org)).

Launched in June 2008, NewTalk.org offers a new kind of conversation: one that acknowledges reality, uncovers common ground, and finds a responsible way forward. It takes advantage of the Internet, letting each discussion unfold over several days with notable participants contributing from across the country.

Recent NewTalk discussions have included renowned American leaders such as mayors Michael Bloomberg (New York) and Shirley Franklin (Atlanta); former presidential candidates and U.S. Senators Bill Bradley and Bob Kerrey; Edith Jones, Chief Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit; Mark McClellan, former Administrator of Medicare and Medicaid; American Federation of Teachers President Randi Weingarten, and a host of high-profile thinkers with a wide range of expertise.

Among the recently completed discussions now archived on NewTalk.org include:

- “Would ‘loser pays’ eliminate frivolous lawsuits and defenses?”
- “Do We Need a Basic Rewrite of No Child Left Behind?”
- “Obesity: What’s Needed to Encourage a Culture of Fitness?”
- “Is Nuclear Power Essential to Addressing Climate Change and Energy Independence?”
- “Chronic Care: Do We Need an Entirely New Model of Delivery?”

NewTalk was created and is supported by the non-profit organization Common Good ([www.commongood.org](http://www.commongood.org)) in recognition of the need to improve the quality of public discourse on a broad range of topics. Both NewTalk and Common Good were founded by Philip K. Howard, lawyer and author of the bestseller, “The Death of Common Sense” and the upcoming book, “Life Without Lawyers.”

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